Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification by adding the following matter, which is not new, on page 1 of the instant application in between the CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS section and the BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE DRAWING FIGURES section:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is generally related to conference calls and, more particularly, to admitting conference call hosts and participants into conference calls.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

There are various problems and limitations associated with admitting conference call hosts and participants into conference calls including a lack of efficiency in doing so. As such, what is needed is are methods for entering hosts and participants into new or existing conference calls that overcome such problems and limitations.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one embodiment, A method of entering a host into a new conference call, the method comprising at least the following: receiving a call from a given caller at a VRU, receiving at least a conference code from the given caller at the VRU, forwarding the conference code to a proxy server, sending a request to the proxy server to enter the given caller into a conference call, determining, by the proxy server, that the request from the VRU relates to conferencing services, forwarding, by the proxy server, the request to a conference management system, which comprises at least a data store and at least one interface server receiving the request, determining that the given caller is a conference host, determining that at least one participant has called in previously to the given caller and has provided a conference code that is at least related to the conference code entered by the given caller, requesting that a new conference be created that corresponds to the conference code entered by the given caller, assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers, generating a unique identifier for the new conference, providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU, providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU, loading the data store with at least the conference code, the

unique identifier for the new conference, and the mixer identifier, and placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication.

In another embodiment, method of entering a conference call participant into a new conference call, the method comprising at least the following: receiving a call from a given caller at a VRU, receiving at least a conference code from the given caller at the VRU, forwarding the conference code to a proxy server, sending a request to the proxy server to enter the given caller into a conference call, determining, by the proxy server, that the request from the VRU relates to conferencing services, forwarding, by the proxy server, the request to a conference management system, which comprises at least a data store and at least one interface server receiving the request, determining that the given caller is a conference participant, requesting that a new conference be created that corresponds to the conference code entered by the given caller, assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers, generating a unique identifier for the new conference, providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU, providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU, loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for the new conference, and the mixer identifier; and placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication.

In a further embodiment, method of entering a conference call participant into a new conference call, the method comprising at least the following: receiving a call from a given caller at a VRU, receiving at least a conference code from the given caller at the VRU, forwarding the conference code to a proxy server, sending a request to the proxy server to enter the given caller into a conference call, determining, by the proxy server, that the request from the VRU relates to conferencing services, forwarding, by the proxy server, the request to a conference management system, which comprises at least a data store and at least one interface server receiving the request, determining that the given caller is a conference participant, requesting that the given caller be placed on hold until a conference host associated with the conference code calls in, and when the conference host calls in, performing at least the following: assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers, generating a unique identifier for the new conference, providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU, providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU, loading the data store with at least the conference

code, the unique identifier for the new conference, and the mixer identifier, and placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication.

In yet another embodiment, method of entering a conference call participant into a new conference call, the method comprising at least the following: receiving a call from a given caller at a VRU, receiving at least a conference code from the given caller at the VRU, forwarding the conference code to a proxy server, sending a request to the proxy server to enter the given caller into a conference call, determining, by the proxy server, that the request from the VRU relates to conferencing services, forwarding, by the proxy server, the request to a conference management system, which comprises at least a data store and at least one interface server receiving the request, determining that the given caller is a conference participant, requesting that the given caller be connected with at least a further caller temporarily until a conference host associated with the conference code calls in, and when the conference host calls in, performing at least the following: assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers, generating a unique identifier for the new conference, providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU, providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU, loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for the new conference, and the mixer identifier, and placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication.

In yet a further embodiment, A method of entering a host into a new conference call, the method comprising at least the following: receiving a call from a given caller at a VRU, receiving at least a conference code from the given caller at the VRU, forwarding the conference code to a proxy server, sending a request to the proxy server to enter the given caller into a conference call, determining, by the proxy server, that the request from the VRU relates to conferencing services, forwarding, by the proxy server, the request to a conference management system, which comprises at least a data store and at least one interface server, wherein the interface server receives the request, determining that an existing conference is at least related to the conference code entered by the given caller, determining that the given caller is a conference host, obtaining from the data store at least the unique identifier for the existing new conference and the mixer identifier related to the mixer hosting the existing conference, and placing the

VRU to which the given caller is connected and the mixer hosting the existing conference in audio communication.

In yet another embodiment, A method of entering a host into a new conference call, receiving a call from a caller at a VRU, receiving at least a conference code from the caller at the VRU, forwarding the conference code to a proxy server, sending a request to the proxy server to enter the caller into a conference call, determining, by the proxy server, that the request from the VRU relates to conferencing services, forwarding, by the proxy server, the request to a conference management system, which comprises at least a data store and at least one interface server, wherein the interface server receives the request, determining that no existing conference corresponds to the conference code entered by the caller, determining that the caller is a conference host, requesting that a new conference be created that corresponds to the conference code entered by the caller, assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers, generating a unique identifier for the new conference, providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU, providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU, loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for the new conference, and the mixer identifier, and placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication.